



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2006

No. 102

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, in whom we live, move and have our being, send forth Your spirit upon the Members of the House of Representatives today.

As they try to finish the work You have set before them in this 109th Congress, we hope that civil discourse, rightful compromise and mutual learning from one another may produce lasting results for Your people.

And when they take leave of committee staffs and each other for the August break, may all Members find peace awaiting them at home. Together with family and friends, may they enjoy summer days and quiet evenings so their souls are renewed and lasting values are embraced with greater fortitude for the good of all Americans and the future of this Nation.

Lord, we pray for an end of terrorism and an atmosphere of world peace be established to free all people of anxiety and foster better family life and stable communities.

May the Lord go before you to prepare your way. May the Lord be above you with every blessing; and may the Lord carry you safely until you return. For He lives and reigns as Sovereign Lord now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

BORDER SECURITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, America cannot be a secure Nation without first having secure borders. Inadequate border security not only opens up America to the abuses of illegal immigration, it also leaves our Nation vulnerable to criminal and even terrorist activity.

House Republicans have taken a strong stance on this issue. Democrats, on the other hand, support the Reid-Kennedy bill, a soft piece of legislation that would do little to discourage the lawlessness that we have encroaching into our Nation. It would require illegal immigrants to pay taxes for only 3 of the 5 years they have been in our country, and would guarantee Social Security benefits to illegals for the time they have been in the country unlawfully.

The Reid-Kennedy bill is just as unjust as it is dangerous. If a current American citizen tried to pay taxes 3 out of every 5 years, he would be put in jail. Why do we extend this privilege to people who aren't even citizens? It is simply ludicrous.

During August, Republicans will hold 21 hearings across the country on immigration. We hope these hearings will help us get a strong border security bill on the President's desk.

EXXONMOBIL PROFITS

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, ExxonMobil profits surged 36 percent to \$10.4 billion in just the last 3 months. That means they made \$1,310 a second in profit. In the 1 minute I have to address this Congress, ExxonMobil will make \$79,080 in profit. In 1 minute they will make more than most hard-working Americans make in a year.

As consumers are being gouged at the pump, Big Oil runs the administration, bringing us war and environmental disaster and economic decline. Oil was at about \$23 a barrel at the start of this administration. Now it is at \$74 a barrel. If this administration goes ahead and attacks Iran, it will go to \$130 a barrel and about \$5 a gallon for gas.

This Congress must do more than genuflect with tax breaks and subsidies to Big Oil. It is time we took the side of the consumers whose budgets are being crushed and mobility being crushed by \$3 a gallon gas. It is time for a 100 percent excess profit tax on the oil companies. That is what my bill, H.R. 2070, does. It will lower the price of gas because it will tax excess profits of oil companies and it won't increase the price of gasoline.

My minute is up, but the oil companies' profits are eternal, unless we stop the price gouging with a 100 percent excess profits tax.

ELIMINATING PREVENTABLE MEDICATION ERRORS

(Mr. MURPHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, a recent study by the Institute of Medicine reported preventable medication errors injure over 1.5 million patients and cost over \$3.5 billion each year. In other studies these costs are even higher. One stated it cost Medicare \$29 billion per year in health care costs.

Medication errors include adverse drug reactions or errors of dosage or

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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